

REMARKS

By this Reply, claims 1-19 are pending in the present application. Independent claim 14 has been amended.

MPEP §1206 describes that amendments filed after the filing of a notice of appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, may be admitted only to:

- (A) cancel claims;
- (B) comply with any requirement of form expressly set forth in a previous action;
- (C) present rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal; or
- (D) amend the specification or claims upon a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(a).

The present amendment is filed after the filing of a notice of appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief to correct a typographical informality in claim 14, so as to present the claims in better form for appeal. No new matter is added. Thus, Applicant requests entry of the present amendment after final.

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the telephone discussion between the Examiner and Applicant's representative on May 30, 2008. During the discussion, the present amendment was reviewed, with the Examiner indicating that the present amendment would be entered.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Michael E. Monaco Reg. No. 52,041 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: July 7, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By Esther Chong
Esther H. Chong
Registration No.: 40,953
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant